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SOME ASPECTS OF CHINESE-SANSKRIT
BUDDHIST LEXICOGRAPHY

In a brief paper, Prof. John Brough gave a concise assessment of some of the principal modern works relevant to this subject, starting from Stanislas Julien's *Méthode pour déchiffrer et transcrire les noms sanscrits qui se rencontrent dans les livres chinois*, Paris, 1861. This brilliant work has long been superseded by later studies in the phonology of earlier Chinese; and for transliterations of Indian words, a scholar must now be able to use the more recent studies by Karlgren, Pulleyblank and others. A satisfactory handbook on this subject for the use of Indologists is certainly a desideratum.

A more immediate aim, however, is to provide a dictionary of Chinese words used in Buddhist translations. Most of the existing Chinese dictionaries are not only often unsatisfactory in dealing with Buddhist technical terms, but also frequently fail to indicate how quite common Chinese expressions are used to render non-technical Indian words, often in ways which differ from non-Buddhist Chinese usage. In this matter, Prof. G. M. Nagao's *Index to the Mahāyāna-sūtrālamkāra* and similar works have been of very great assistance. But since these are limited to the range of vocabulary of individual texts, something more is needed, especially for the use of Western scholars.

The great Sanskrit-Japanese Dictionary (*Bonwa daijiten*), begun by U. Wogihara, was completed under the editorship of Prof. N. Tsuji in 1974. Wherever it was possible — and this applies to a very high proportion of the entries — all the available authenticated Chinese renderings are listed under the relevant Sanskrit headwords. A simple reversal of these Buddhist translation-words, therefore, would provide the basis for a Buddhist Chinese-Sanskrit dictionary which would be immeasurably superior to such works as the *Dictionary of Chinese Buddhist Terms* by Soothill and Hodous.

Such a project should if possible be carried out in Japan. The main problems would be to recruit a team of suitably qualified gra-

duates to do the work, and to obtain sufficient money (e.g., from various Foundations) to meet their salaries and other expenses, over a period of perhaps ten years. The support of the IASS should assist greatly in gaining the interest of such fund-granting bodies.

It is naturally impossible to do more than guess how much time would be required. It might seem desirable in the first place to form an international editorial committee to formulate general principles for the work.

In connection with this paper, Resolution No. 6 was adopted by the board of IASS.